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Executive Registry

D-5294

7 JUL 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR: SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF
STATE FOR RESEARCH AND INTELLIGENCE
DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, GENERAL STAFF,
UNITED STATES ARMY
DIRECTOR OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE
DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, OFFICE OF DEPUTY
CHIEF OF STAFF, OPERATIONS, UNITED STATES
AIR FORCE
DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE, ATOMIC ENERGY
COMMISSION
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, JOINT INTELLIGENCE GROUP,
JOINT STAFF

Subject: Transliteration of Foreign Languages

1. As a result of the meetings of the interdepartmental working committee discussing the above subject, CIA has decided to put into effect now the results reached to date; without waiting for decisions on the less common languages.
2. Transliteration of Chinese will be by the Wade-Giles system, of Japanese by the Hepburn system, and of Korean by the McCune-Reischauer system,
3. Transliteration of Russian, Ukrainian, Belorussian, Bulgarian, and Serbian will be in accordance with the enclosures.
4. Within CIA other systems for these languages will be abandoned, and it is hoped the IAC agencies can do likewise if other systems are now used. It is believed that this is agreeable to those in the agencies working on translations. If an agency has any comments on this matter, I shall be glad to receive them.

71000

R. H. HILLENKOETTER
REAR ADMIRAL, USN
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Enclosure:

PC/mhb

ICAPS-6 July 1949

cc: Central Records
Signer's Copy
Return to ICAPS
Bagnall, FDB
Executive

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Director of Central Intelligence
Assistant Director for Operations
Transliteration of Foreign Languages

JUN 14 1949

1. The attached memorandum, subject as above, indicates the desirability of standardized systems of transliteration within CIA.

2. It is recommended that an Administrative Instruction be issued to all CIA personnel concerned with transliteration.

GEORGE C. CAREY

Encl: Draft Adm. Ins.

Memo 8 June 49 fr Chairman, CIA Translit. Comm.
to AD/OO (original)

Concurs: 15/ [redacted] 14 June 49
Assistant Director for Reports and Estimates Date

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Concurs: 15/ [redacted] 14 June 49
Assistant Director for Collection and Date
Dissemination

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Concurs: 15/ [redacted] 15 June 49
Assistant Director for Scientific Date
Intelligence

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Concurs: 15/ [redacted] 14 June 49
Assistant Director for Special Operations Date

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Distribution: DOI - 2
AD/OVE - 1
AD/OTD - 1
AF/OSI - 1
AD/TSO - 1
OI - 2✓

[redacted] - 14 June 49

16 June: orig

memo forwarded to DCD today with all concurrence

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APPROVED: D H HILLENKOTTER

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Enclosure A

TRANSLITERATION TABLE FOR THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE

А а	a	Р р	r
Б б	b	С с	s
В в	v	Т т	t
Г г	g	У у	u
Д д	d	Ф ф	f
Е е	ye, e ¹	Х х	kh
Ж ж	zh	Ц ц	ts
З з	z	Ч ч	ch
И и	i	Ш ш	sh
Й й	y	Щ щ	shch
К к	k	Ъ ъ	•
Л л	l	Н н	n
М м	m	Ь ь	•
Н н	n	Э э	e
О о	o	Ю ю	yu
П п	p	Я я	ya

¹ye initially, after vowels, and after Ъ, Ь; e elsewhere; when written as ё in Russian, transliterate as yë or ë.

Enclosure 3

TRANSLITERATION TABLE FOR THE UKRAINIAN LANGUAGE

А а	a	Н н	n
В в	b	О о	o
В в	v	П п	p
Г г	h	Р р	r
Г' г'	g	С с	s
Д д	d	Т т	t
Е е	e	У у	u
Є є	Ye	Ф ф	f
Ж ж	zh	Х х	kh
З з	z	Ц ц	ts
И и	y	Ч ч	ch
І і	i	Ш ш	sh
ї ї	i	Щ щ	shch
Й й	y	і	i
К к	k	Ь ь	'
Л л	l	Ю ю	yu
М м	m	Я я	ya

Enclosure 6

TRANSLITERATION TABLE FOR THE BELORUSSIAN LANGUAGE

А а	А а	П п	р
Б б	б	Р р	г
В в	в	С с	а
Г г	г	Т т	т
Г' г'	г	У у	а
Д д	д	Ў ў	ў
Е е	ye, e ¹	Ф ф	г
Ж ж	zh	Х х	kh
З з	з	Ц ц	ts
І і	і	Ч ч	ch
Й й	у	Ш ш	sh
К к	к	М м	у
Л л	л	Ь ь	h'
М м	м	Э э	е
Н н	н	Ю ю	yu
О о	о	Я я	ya

¹ye initially, after vowels, and after б ; e elsewhere;
when written as ё in Belorussian, transliterate as yë or ë.

Enclosure 2

TRANSLITERATION TABLE FOR THE BULGARIAN LANGUAGE

А а	а	П п	р
В в	в	Р р	г
В в	в	С с	с
Г г	г	Т т	т
Д д	д	У у	у
Е е	е	Ф ф	ф
Ж ж	ж	Х х	х
З з	з	Ц ц	ц
И и	и	Ч ч	ч
Й й	й	Ш ш	ш
К к	к	Щ щ	шт
Л л	л	Ъ ъ	ъ
М м	м	Ь ь	ь
Н н	н	Ю ю	ю
О о	о	Я я	я

NOTE: This table is based on the spelling reform of 1945.
For certain obsolete letters found in older sources, proceed
as follows:

1. Final **Ѣ** : omit.
2. **Ѥ** , replaced by **е** or **я** , according to
pronunciation: transliterate as **е** or **я**.
Accordingly, if correct present spelling is
known; otherwise, as **ю**.
3. **Ѧ** , replaced by **Ѣ** : transliterate as **ъ**.

Enclosure 2

TRANSLITERATION TABLE FOR THE SERBIAN LANGUAGE

Serbian	Croatian	Serbian	Croatian
А а	а	Н н	н
Б б	б	Њ њ	њ
В в	в	О о	о
Г г	г	П п	р
Д д	д	Р р	р
Ћ ћ	ћ ¹	С с	с
Е е	е	Т т	т
Ж ж	ж	Ѣ ѣ	ј
З з	з	У у	у
И и	и	Ф ф	ф
Ј ј	ј	Х х	х
К к	к	Ц ц	с
Л л	л	Ч ч	ч
Љ љ	љ	Ѣ ѣ	ј
М м	м	Н н	н

¹ Use this variant instead of Ѣ

Enclosure F

TRANSLITERATION TABLE FOR THE KOREAN LANGUAGE

<u>Onmun</u>	<u>McCune-Reischauer romanization</u>	<u>Onmun</u>	<u>McCune-Reischauer romanization</u>
아	a	ㅁ	m
야	ya	ㅂ	p
어	ŏ	ㅅ	s
여	yŏ	ㅇ	ng
오	o	ㅈ	ch
요	yo	ㅊ	ch'
우	u	ㅋ	k'
유	yu	ㅌ	t'
으	ŭ	ㅍ	p'
이	i	ㅎ	h
애	ae	ㅃ	pp
얘	yae	ㅌ	tt
에	e	ㅆ	tch
외	oe	ㅈ	kk
예	ye	ㅊ	ss
와	wa		
워	wŏ		
의	ŭi		
왜	wae		
웨	we		
위	wi		
ㄱ	k		
ㄴ	n		
ㄷ	t		
ㄹ	l		

Syllabic tables for transliteration are available but are not presented here.

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8 June 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

Transliteration of Foreign Languages

- References:**
- A. Memo from AD/OO to Chief, ICAPS and the Assistant Directors for OCD, ORE and OSO, dated 25 Oct 1948, subject: "Transliteration and Standardization of Spelling of Foreign Personal Names".
 - B. Memo from DAD/OSO to AD/OO dated 25 Oct 1948, same subject.
 - C. Memo from Chief, ICAPS to AD/OO dated 27 Oct 1948, same subject.
 - D. Memo from AD/ORE to AD/OO dated 28 Oct 1948, same subject.
 - E. Memo from AD/OCD to AD/OO dated 26 Nov 1948, same subject.

1. Reference A proposed that a CIA committee be formed of representatives of the various offices concerned with the problem of transliteration especially insofar as it pertained to foreign personal names.

2. In view of the favorable response to this proposal as contained in References B to E, a CIA Transliteration Committee was formed of representatives from ICAPS, ORE, OCD and OO. Acting Chief, FDB was elected Chairman of this Committee which has held meetings on this subject as it related to the Slavic languages and Chinese, Japanese and Korean.

3. To facilitate coordination with the IAC Agencies in this matter, working committees were formed for related languages or language groups and IAC participation in the deliberations and findings of these working committees was obtained through Chief, ICAPS.

4. Due to the urgent need for a solution to this problem as it relates to Russian and Korean, the following recommendations of the Committee covering the Slavic languages and the ideographic Far Eastern languages are presented at this time. These are in consonance with the current BGN system for geographical names on languages for which the Board has a system.

orig. of this memo LCC

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5. The Committee recommends the following transliteration procedures be adopted by CIA not only for personal names but for all transliteration purposes:

- a. For the Russian language, the BGN system (Encl A).
- b. For Ukrainian and Belorussian, the system drawn up by the Committee (Encls B, C).
- c. For Bulgarian, the BGN system (Encl D).
- d. For Serbian, the Croatian alphabet (Encl E).
- e. For Chinese, the Wade-Giles system. (This is a routine recommendation, as this system is presently used by all government offices.)
- f. For Japanese, the Hepburn system. (This is also routine, as this system was used during the war by all agencies and is well established.)
- g. For Korean, the McCune-Reischauer system (Encl F).

It is further recommended:

- a. That, inasmuch as IAC representatives participated in the working committees, the IAC Agencies be approached with a view toward their formal adoption of the systems recommended above.
- b. That a directive be issued to all CIA Offices to employ the systems recommended above, if approved.
- c. That the system-tables be prepared in multiple copies for dissemination to each person in CIA concerned with transliteration for any purpose.

J. J. BAGNALL,
Chairman,
CIA Transliteration Committee.

cc: ICAPS
ORE
OCD

Form No. 55-5
Mar 48

Date

6/10

INTERNAL ROUTING SLIP
Office of Operations

FROM : TO : NAME : INITIALS

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REMARKS:

Mr. Carey: One of the final
recommendations in the attached
memo suggests that the IAC
agencies be requested to adopt
transiteration procedures for
those languages agreed upon
to date.

You recommended to
Bagnall, I believe, that the DCI
memo to the IAC agencies be
delayed until procedures
covering all pertinent languages
had been agreed upon by the
CIA committee  STAT

Recommend forwarding to DCI
(5663) for approval. Apparently there
is urgency on these languages. STAT